

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1413
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4305

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, RH, AO, ZA, CG, JM, WA
SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE OF ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA
IN JAMAICA

1. AT A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN KINGSTON ON
MAY 24 DURING A TWO-HOUR STOPOVER ENROUTE TO GEORGETOWN
FROM WASHINGTON, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA COMMENTED
ON THE FOLLOWING:

-- NEED FOR ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE:

UNLESS ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE RHODESIAN QUESTION
HOLD ANOTHER ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE,
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INTENSIFY
THE STRUGGLE. HOWEVER, KAUNDA RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD FINALLY SETTLE THE QUESTION

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OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, SAYING, "WE HAVE HAD A
LOND ENOUGH EXPERIENCE WITH IAN SMITH TO KNOW THAT THAT
IS NOT POSSIBLE. THAT MAN IS DISHONEST, AND NOTHING THAT IS
TRUTHFUL EVER COMES OUT OF HIS MOUTH. TO RELY ON THE
ASSURANCE OF SUCH A MAN IS TO STAKE THE FUTURE OF SIX AND
ONE HALF MILLION PEOPLE IN THE HANDS OF SOMEONE YOU CAN
CALL A DEVIL."

-- IAN SMITH'S CONTROLLING ROLE:

AFTER ACCUSING THE RHODESIAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF ORDERING THE MASSACRE OF 94 PERSONS RECENTLY IN ANGOLA, KAUNDA REJECTED SMITH'S CLAIM THAT SMITH AND THE OTHER COUNCILLORS WOULD TAKE TURNS AS CHAIRMAN, ARGUING THAT SMITH HIMSELF "STILL IS PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS FULL CONTROL OF THE ARMY, THE AIR FORCE, THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY, THE POLICE, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE JUDICIARY AND THE INTELLIGENCE ... ALL THE INSTRUMENTS OF POWER ARE STILL IN IAN SMITH'S HANDS, AND IT IS A PITY THAT SOME BLACK LEADERS SHOULD NOW SOIL THEIR HANDS IN THE BLOOD OF THEIR OWN FELLOW MEN."

-- RE NAMIBIA:

KAUNDA SAID THAT THE COUNTRY HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS, "AND IT IS THIS PROGRESS THAT THE RACISTS FEARED WHEN THEY BOMBED ANGOLA AND KILLED OVER 600 INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND THEREBY MADE SWAPO, OF COURSE, VIRTUALLY WITHDRAW FROM THEIR POSTS." HE SAID HIS COUNTRY BELIEVED THE BOMBING WAS A DELIBERATE ACT DESIGNED TO SABOTAGE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE UP TO THAT POINT.

-- ZAMBIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS:

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KAUNDA REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ZAMBIA IS NOW UNDERGOING AS A RESULT OF THE CONFLICTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA HAD CLOSED THE ROUTE TO LOBITO BAY. HE ALSO DENIED THE RUMOR THAT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND HAD ASKED ZAMBIA TO RE-OPEN ITS BORDERS TO RHODESIA AS A CONDITION FOR A LOAN.

-- CUBANS IN AFRICA:

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS IN AFRICA, KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA HAD PREVIOUSLY CRITICIZED THE PRESENCE OF BOTH CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN ANGOLA, BECAUSE AT THE TIME ZAMBIA DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FEUDING ANGOLAN POLITICAL PARTIES HAD A RIGHT TO INVITE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. HOWEVER, AT THE PRESENT TIME, KAUNDA SAID, "ZAMBIA DOES NOT SEE ANY CUBANS ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA WHO WERE NOT INVITED BY A HEAD OF STATE." HE ADDED THAT ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, IS FREE TO INVITE OUTSIDE SUPPORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE WESTERN PRESS SHOULD HAVE ASKED ABOUT THE INVITATION

WHICH ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU EXTENDED TO "FRENCH INTELLIGENCE."

2. FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, KAUNDA HAD A WORKING LUNCH WITH JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY AND INFORMAL TALKS WITH VARIOUS OTHER HIGH-LEVEL JAMAICAN OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION TO KAUNDA, THE 21-MAN ZAMBIAN DELEGATION INCLUDED P. C. KAMANGA, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE; J. MWANAKATIVE, MINISTER OF FINANCE; A. B. CHIKWANDA, MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE; DR. S. J. MWALE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; M. C. CHONA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT; AND H. M. NZUNGA, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE ZAMBIANS DEPARTED KINGSTON AT ABOUT 3:00 P.M. FOR GEORGETOWN. THE WILL LATER PROCEED TO PORT OF SPAIN AND LAUNDA, ANGOLA, FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO.

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